

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06118 061323Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 XMB-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08 L-03 OPIC-12

EUR-25 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /129 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1172

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BCOM, ECRP, BL

SUBJ: EARLY WARNING: COOPERATIVES PROPOSE SALT DERIVATIVE
INDUSTRY

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF OCTOBER 4, 1973, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF SALT COOPERATIVES (CCSC) BASED IN POTOSI IN LETTER TO GENERAL MANAGER OF BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENT CORP. (CBF), GUILLERMO JIMENEZ G., PROPOSED CBF AND THE CCSC JOINTLY MINE THE SALAR DE UYUNI LOCATED WEST OF THE TOWN OF UYUNI AND EAST OF THE CHILEAN FRONTIER AND MANUFACTURE VARIOUS PRODUCTS FROM SALT MATERIAL. SURFACE SALT DEPOSIT OF THE SALAR DE UYUNI REPORTEDLY IS 9,500 SQUARE KILOMETERS IN AREA AND CONTAINS 20 BILLION METRIC TONS OF SALT (ABOUT 2 TONS PER SQUARE METER). CCSC CONSIDERS POSSIBLE THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION IN VENTURE BY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE ARMED FORCES (COFADENA) AS CONVENIENT BECAUSE OF LARGE SIZE OF THE OPERATION.

2. STANDARD-MESSO-DUISBURG, A WEST GERMAN FIRM, HAS BEEN CONSULTED BY CCSC ON TYPES OF EQUIPMENT TO ANNUALLY PRODUCE IN METRIC TONS, 180,000 OF SODIUM CARBONATE; 70,000 OF CAUSTIC SODA; 70,000 OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID; 50,000 OF POLYVINYL CHLORIDE; 50,000 OF LITHIUM AND MAGNESIUM CHLORIDES; 25,000 OF CALCIUM CARBIDE; 50,000 OF CRYSTALIZED BORAX; AND 100,000 OF AMMONIUM CHLORIDE; IODIDES, REFINED
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 06118 061323Z

SALT, AND OTHER CHEMICAL DERIVATIVES. THE GROSS VALUE OF

THESE PRODUCTS REPORTEDLY IS ESTIMATED AT US\$ 59,500,000.
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